

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the subject application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 15, 17-21, 23 and 29 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 29 being independent. Claim 30 has been canceled.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claim 29, and his finding that claims 19-21 and 23 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**Election/restriction**

The Examiner withdrew from consideration claim 30, which had been added in the previous response dated January 29, 2008, because of the Examiner's finding that it is directed to a non-elected invention. Applicants in this response have canceled this claim without prejudice to the underlying subject matter.

**Provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection**

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 15 and 17-18 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 34-56 of copending U.S. Application No. 11/500,981.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection. MPEP §804(I)(B)(1) provides:

If a "provisional" nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting (ODP) rejection is the only rejection remaining in the earlier filed of the two pending applications, while the later-filed application is rejectable on other grounds, the examiner should withdraw that rejection and permit the earlier-filed application to issue as a patent without a terminal disclaimer. If the ODP rejection is the only rejection remaining in the later-filed application, while the earlier-filed application is rejectable on other grounds, a terminal

disclaimer must be required in the later-filed application before the rejection can be withdrawn.

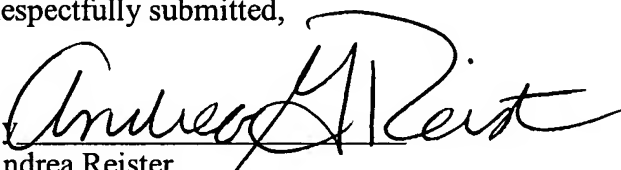
The provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection is the only remaining rejection in this application. Moreover, this application was filed on August 1, 2003, while reference application 11/500,981 was filed on August 9, 2006. For this reason, this application is "earlier filed" under MPEP §804(I)(B)(1) compared to reference application 11/500,981. Therefore, the Examiner should, based on MPEP §804(I)(B)(1), withdraw the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection and permit this application to issue.

### Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Dated: July 2, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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